

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A spacer configured to be secured to a panel of a predetermined thickness with a bore, comprising:

a first piece having a generally tubular body portion of a preselected first piece height,  $H_1$ , with a first end and a second end, the second end having a preselected included first piece angle,  $\theta$  with respect to an axis that passes through a bore of the first piece;

a second piece having a first end, an annular ridge which is located adjacent to the first end and a flange which is located adjacent to the annular ridge that extends radially outwardly from the axis, the first end having a preselected second piece height,  $H_3$ , a and the preselected included angle,  $\theta$  with respect to the axis that passes through the bore of the first piece, and a seat which is adapted to receive the a head of a fastener; and

wherein the second end of the first piece is sandwiched between the first end of the second piece and the annular ridge; and

wherein the preselected included angle ranges from about 80 degrees to about 130 degrees.

**Claim 2 (currently amended):** The spacer of claim 1 wherein  $H_3$  ~~has a~~ second piece height from  $H_3$  is about 20% to about 40% of the first piece height of  $H_1$ .

**Claim 3 (canceled)**

**Claim 4 (canceled)**

**Claim 5 (original):** The spacer of claim 1 wherein the flange is secured to the panel with an effective amount of an adhesive.

**Claim 6 (currently amended):** The spacer of claim 1 wherein the first end of the first piece is secured to the panel by curling the first end of the first piece into the panel.

**Claim 7 (original):** The spacer of claim 1 wherein the flange has a preselected shape selected from the group consisting of a circle, an oval and non-circular shapes.

**Claim 8 (original):** A spacer configured to be secured to a panel of a predetermined thickness with a bore, comprising:

a first piece having a generally tubular body portion of a preselected first piece height,  $H_1$ , with a first end and a second end, the second end having a preselected included first piece angle,  $\theta$  with respect to an axis that passes through a bore of the first piece;

a second piece having a first end, an annular ridge which is located adjacent to the first end and a flange which is located adjacent to the annular ridge that extends radially outwardly from the axis, the first end having a preselected second piece height,  $H_2$ , ~~a~~ and the preselected included angle,  $\theta$  with respect to the axis that passes through the bore of the first piece, and a seat which is adapted to receive the head of a fastener;

wherein the second end of the first piece is sandwiched between the first end of the second piece and the annular ridge; ~~and~~

wherein  ~~$H_2$  has a second piece height from~~ is about 20% to about 40% of the first piece height of  $H_1$ ; ~~and~~

wherein the preselected included angle ranges from about 80 degrees to about 130 degrees.

**Claim 9 (canceled)**

**Claim 10 (canceled)**

**Claim 11 (original):** The spacer of claim 8 wherein the flange is secured to the panel with an effective amount of an adhesive.

**Claim 12 (currently amended):** The spacer of claim 8 wherein the first end of the first piece is secured to the panel by curling the first end of the first piece into the panel.

**Claim 13 (original):** The spacer of claim 8 wherein the flange has a preselected shape selected from the group consisting of a circle, an oval and non-circular shapes.